

Your Bug Out Vehicle and Winter Tires

By Joseph Parish

Wintertime can be brutal and harsh especially on vehicles and the last thing any prepper would want it to have a bug out vehicle that cannot perform as expected and when expected. This brings us to the topic of winter tires.



In the older days our ancestors would replace the normal day to day tires with special threaded winter versions made to hold the road much better. In some locations, chains were even required in order to travel on certain northern roads and highways. The question that is brought to mind is should we still consider swapping tires as the winter months approach?

In some circles of conversation, the thought of installing winter tires is often viewed as an overkill that offers little in the way of additional compensation in our winter driving safety. In my home state of Delaware, we may get about four or five days, at best, where driving becomes difficult due to the snow and ice. Usually at those times the roads are closed if the weather gets extremely bad. Almost immediately the snow plow equipment is dispatched to do their jobs of clearing the highways of the accumulated snow and making them passable. Several times during a really bad snow storm driving becomes restricted by law and only emergency vehicles and personnel are permitted on the highways.

The weather man informs us that our winter storms are becoming colder every year with increased quantities of snow and ice making a formable driving hazard. As we sit comfortably in our living room watching the evening news we frequently hear about the stranded cars and trucks that have become roadside casualties along the highways. These stuck vehicles include just about every type of car including some that have four-wheel drive. At this rate it would appear that replacing our tires with winter tires would perhaps be a waste of our financial resources as well as our time.

The question still remains as to whether the winter tires are of any benefit. I would have to contend that they do in fact offer an additional assurance in safety for your vehicle and its occupants. Although it may only snow for a few days we want to have as much safety under our wheels as possible even if the trip is merely to travel to the local grocery store two miles down the road.

The manufacturer of winter tires has invested a considerable amount of time and efforts into designing their tires. They have perfected the various thread patterns used in these tires and found them to be of optimal benefit when winter storms strike. If you compare the winter threads with those used on tires from other times of the year you will see a drastic difference between the types developed. These specific tire threads have been carefully designed to perform well in snow and on icy surfaces. In addition, the winter tires are usually larger than their all-weather opponents. Larger tires equal more surface contact allowing smooth take offs from stationary positions such as stop streets or when making highway turns.

Winter tire threads help greatly to even out the stopping power of modern-day vehicles. They reduce sliding when taking off or stopping. Unlike normal tires the winter tires are designed to grip the surface of the road and ensure a positive control under all aspects of your driving because of their deeper tread patterns.

With all of this in mind we can obviously see the advantages of using winter tires on our bug out vehicle. An added benefit is that winter tires perform very well in muddy situations which we all will agree could be an advantage when bugging out. Keep this in mind as you plan your BOV and the types of tires you will use on it.